

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAKAR 01804 091115Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-13 /094 W

-----030833 100225Z /75

R 090940Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3170

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SS, SG, AG

SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM: SENEGAL-ALGERIAN RELATIONS

CONTINUE TO BE TENSE

REF A DAKAR 1581, B TRIPOLI 339

1. SUMMARY: ALGERIANS FOUND NOTHING HAD REALLY CHANGED IN RECENT MEETING BETWEEN SENGHOR AND BOUMEDIENE EMISSARY. SENGHOR STILL VIEWS ALGERIA AS DESTABILIZING FORCE AND FAVORS REFERANDA IN WESTERN SAHARA UNDER FORMULA WHICH ALGERIANS BELIEVE IS DESIGNED TO RATIFY STATUS QUO. HOWEVER, SENGHOR NOW PROPOSES THAT RATIFICATION OF MOROCCO-ALGERIAN BORDER AGREEMENT BE LUMPED INTO SETTLEMENT. SENEGALESE OFFICIALS CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT THAT ALGERIA TOOK INITIATIVE OF SEEKING OUT SENGHOR'S VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL A REPORTED VISIT TO DAKAR OF ALGERIAN DEPUTY ABDELKADAR ZAIBEK FEBRUARY 27 TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE FROM  
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 01804 091115Z

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR. WE ASKED ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR BOUDERBA IF HE COULD DESCERN ANY EVOLUTION IN SENEGAL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT AS RESULT OF ZAIBEK'S VISIT.

3. BOUDERBA SAID THAT HE SAW ONLY TWO MINOR CHANGES DURING THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR. FIRST, HE

FEELS SENGHOR IS MORE ANXIOUS NOW TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM THAN APPEARED EARLIER. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED FROM THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR, HE SAID SENGHOR IS WORRIED BECAUSE HE FEELS OULD DADDAHS DAYS ARE NUMBERED, AND THAT MOROCCO WOULD SOON BE FORCED TO EXERCISE DE FACTO CONTROL IN NOUAKCHOTT.

4. SECONDLY, IN TERMS OF WHAT A SETTLEMENT MIGHT ENTAIL, SENGHOR IS NOW PROPOSING THAT AS PART OF A PACKAGE, MOROCCO RATIFY ITS EARLIER AGREEMENTS WITH ALGERIA ON THE DELINEATION OF THEIR BORDER. APART FROM THIS ELEMENT, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN HOVERING IN THE BACKGROUND TO THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM, SENGHOR CONINUES TO INSIST ON HIS STANDARD FORMULA WHICH SEEKS TO GGCONCILE THE TWO UN RESOLUTIONS COVERING THE EX-SPANISH TERRITORY. SENGHOR PROPOSES SEPARATE REFERENDA IN THE MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN SECTORS, ORGANIZED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS, AND SUPERVISED BY THETCN, THE OAU AND THE ARAB LEAGUE. THE VOTERS WOULD HAVE THREE CHOICES: AUTONOMY WITHIN A MAGHREBIAN CONFEDERATION, INDEPENDENCE, OR JURIDICAL AMALGAMATION WITH MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO. ACCORDING TO BOUDERBA, SENGHOR BROUGHT IN THE ALGERIAN-MOROCCO BORDER ELEMENT BECAUSE "A FEDERATION CANNOT BE ORGANIZED UNTIL BORDERS ARE DEFINED."

5. BOUDERBA SAID THAT AS FAR AS ALGERIA IS CONCERNED, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 01804 091115Z

NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED. A REFERENDUM CONTROLLED BY THE OCCUPYING POWERS AND HELD UNDER WARTIME CONDITIONS COULD NOT POSSIBLE BE FAIR. SENGHOR'S FORMULA IS DESIGNED TO SANCTIFY THE STATUS QUO, THE ALGERIANS FEEL. IN ADDTION, THE IDEA OF A MAGHREBIAN FEDERATIONS IS POORLY DEFINED AND WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO IMPELEMENT.

6 IN CONCLUSION, BOUDERBA SAID THAT ZAIBEK'S VISIT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN DISPELLING SENGHOR'S IDEOLOGICAL DISTRUST OF ALGERIA. SENGHGR CONTINUES TO VIEW ALGERIA AS A DESTABILIZING ELEMENT IN THE REGION, AND PREFERS TO LINE UP WITH MOROCCO IN THIS REGIONAL CONFLICT.

7COMMENT: FOLLOWING ALGERIA'S REJECTION LAST FALL OF SENEGALESE PROPOSALS FOR A SAHARAN SETTLEMENT, CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES HAD BEEN LIMITED AND ATMOSPHERE OF MISTRUST HAD SET IN. THOUGH NOTHING OF SUBSTANTIVE SIGNIFICANCE MAY HAVE COME OUT OF ZAIBEK VISIT, WORKING-LEVEL SENEGALESE OFFICIALS ARE SOMEWHAT

HEARTENED BY FACT THAT ALGERIA HAS NOW TAKEN INITIATIVE  
IN SEEKING OUT SENEGALESE VIEWS. ONE REMARKED TO  
EMBOFF: "THE ALGERIANS NOW APPEAR MORE PREPARED TO LET  
SENEGAL PLAY ROLE IN RESOLVING SAHARA DISPUTE."  
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## Message Attributes

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